organisation called the 'Deendar Anjuman' has been established; and in respect of others,- no organised group has so far been found to be involved.

(c) Some vested interests may be engaged in adverse publicity with the aim of tarnishing the country's secular image but the Govt, is committed to safeguarding the interests of the minorities and to deal firmly with the perpetrators *of* violence against them.

Bajrang Dal Way of Protecting Hinduism

354. SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in 'The Times of India'. New Delhi edition dated the 26th June, 2000 under the caption "Protecting Hinduism, the Bajrang Dal way";

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that Bajrang Dal activists are being imparted firearms *trainmg* in Karsevakpuram in Ayodhya; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) A camp was organised from 21st June to 27th June at Karsevakpuram (Ayodhya) where training was given to some youth with 6 AIR GUNS.

The State Government has given suitable instructions to the concern^ police authorities in this regard.

Discussion on International Terrorism

355. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V.RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had discussed the issue of threat of international terrorism during his recent visit to Israel, France and the United Kingdom; and

(b) if so, the details and outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) the recent visit to Israel, France and the United Kingdom was undertaken with the primary objective of discussing the problem of international terrorism and exploring the possibility of bilateral co-operation in fighting the menace.

In Israel the delegation interacted with President Ezer Weizman, Prime Minister Ehud Barak, Minister for Regional Co-operation Shimon Peres, Deputy Minister of Defence Ephriam Sneh, and the Police and Security agencies. The visit has opened up the possibility of increased technological, technical and intelligence co-operation between India and Israel. The two sides have agreed to work for early establishment of a Joint Working Group between the two countries.

In France the delegation met the Minister of Interior, Mr. Jean-Pierre Chevenement. As a result of this meeting, France has agreed to support India's draft UN Resolution against sponsorship of international terrorism.

In the United Kingdom, the delegation held meetings with Mr, Jack Straw, Secretary of State for Home Affairs and Mr. Robin Cook, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs. In these meetings, India's concern over cross border terrorism was discussed in detail. It was agreed that there was an urgent need to build up world opinion against terrorism.

Reduction in monetory assistance to the police of terrorism affected States

356. PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV:
SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have curtailed the amount of assistance to be given to the police of terrorism affected States;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and in what manner the State police will face the terrorists equipped with modern and powerful weapons; and

(c) what would be fate of terrorism in States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) In order to strengthen State Police Forces and* equip them to counter terrorism more effectively, Central Government has provided considerable financial support for modernising them. tOriginal notice of the question was received in Hindi.